

together by mucus. However, the mushlike mass, consisting in part of broken-down feathers (see Hanzák, *op. cit.*, p. 34), found in some grebe stomachs probably is ejected with other indigestible material in the form of pellets. The condition of the feather fragments suggests that these feathers have remained in the stomach for considerable periods, and it is therefore likely that when grebes are feeding on fish, pellets may only be cast at intervals of several days.

To summarize, in the instances in which I have observed pellet-casting in grebes, the ejection was preceded by drinking motions and followed almost immediately by foraging. Feathers swallowed by grebes probably function to retain fish bones in the acid environment of the stomach where they may be at least partly dissolved. Pellet-casting is probably more frequent in grebes feeding on insects and other invertebrates than it is in those feeding on fish. The frequency with which pellets are cast and the proportion and significance of feathers in the pellets remain to be determined.

This study was supported by a National Science Foundation Research Grant (G-4846).—ROBERT W. STORER, *Museum of Zoology, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.*

The Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) in the New World.—The Kestrel has wandered at least once to North America, where a specimen was collected at Strawberry Hill, near Nantasket, Massachusetts, on 29 September 1887, and we report here the second record for the New World and the first for the West Indies.

The bird from the West Indies was taken by hand in an exhausted condition on the street of the village of Le Carbet on the west coast of Martinique on 9 December 1959, and sent at once to one of us (R. P.) at Fort de France. It died very soon after and upon dissection was found to be extremely emaciated. It is an adult female with a wing length of 252 mm. The specimen was identified subsequently (by C. V.), who took it to New York to compare it with the series in the American Museum of Natural History. It belongs to the nominate race (*F. t. tinnunculus* Linnaeus), and its wing length matches closely the average wing length of the females of the nominate race from Europe, which measure 240–270 (253.8) in 20 adults. This specimen is now in the collection of the Collège Séminaire of Fort de France, Martinique, French West Indies.

The specimen from Massachusetts is in the collection of the Chicago Natural History Museum (number 37631) and came from the collection of C. B. Cory, where it had the catalogue number 11636. It is a female of the nominate race in juvenal plumage with a wing length of 236 mm. The conditions under which this specimen was taken are unknown to us, but we believe there can be little doubt that the specimen taken in Martinique had flown the Atlantic. Its exhaustion followed by its rapid death and extreme degree of emaciation support our belief.

An enquiry addressed to the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Commerce failed, however, to reveal the existence of an easterly storm or strong winds that could have carried or assisted the bird across the Atlantic. In fact, the Weather Bureau reports that the winds were adverse, at least in the North Atlantic, between 6 and 9 December 1959, stating “. . . that winds were strong and blowing from west to east north of 35 degrees . . . [and] more easterly . . . [but] not very strong . . . southward between 25 degrees and 15 degrees.” Martinique lies slightly south of 15 degrees. Nevertheless, it is still possible that the bird may have been deflected to the West Indies by the North East

Trades while migrating to West Africa. We may recall that Eisenmann (1960, *Brit. Birds*, vol. 53, pp. 136-140) mentions a number of species of Palearctic migrants that have been carried to Barbados, the easternmost of the Lesser Antilles lying a little north of 13 degrees. Only one of the birds mentioned by Eisenmann "was attributed by the collector to a specific hurricane."

The Kestrel has, however, crossed the North Atlantic on several occasions. One bird each has been collected in Iceland, Greenland, Massachusetts, and at least four in the Azores. The bird from Iceland was taken on 21 October 1903, the one in Massachusetts mentioned above on 29 September 1887, and one from the Azores on 7 December 1927, a date only two days earlier in December than the bird from Martinique. The dates at which the others were taken are not reported.

A word concerning the normal distribution of *Falco tinnunculus* is in order. This falcon is very widely distributed in Eurasia and Africa, including the islands of Madeira, Canaries, and Cape Verdes. It is chiefly sedentary except in northern Eurasia, the birds from this region wintering south to the Gulf of Guinea, northern Congo, Nyasaland, Arabia, and in India east to southern China. It has also wandered farther south in Asia, to Malaya and Borneo.

We thank Dr. E. R. Blake for lending us the specimen from Massachusetts, Mr. E. Eisenmann for his comments, and the Weather Bureau for its cooperation.—PERE R. PINCHON, *Collège Séminaire, Fort de France, Martinique, French West Indies*, and CHARLES VAURIE, *American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 24, New York*.

Three Further Records of Parasitic Egg Laying by Ducks.—Weller (1959, *Ecol. Mono.*, 29: 333-365) recently summarized reports of parasitic egg laying among North American waterfowl. After the Redhead (*Aythya americana*), the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) seems most commonly to manifest this type of behavior. Since Weller's list of species known to have been parasitized by the ruddy did not include the Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), the following two records are herewith submitted. On 11 June 1957, a Lesser Scaup nest containing 16 eggs (13 scaup and 3 ruddy) was found beside a Ducks Unlimited Impoundment near Gem, Alberta. Another scaup egg was lying just outside the deserted nest, which was about 10 feet from water and well concealed. A second Lesser Scaup nest containing Ruddy Duck eggs was located 15 June, approximately 600 yards from the first and on the opposite side of the same impoundment. This nest was situated on a small island; it was four feet from water and once again in good cover. There were 10 scaup and 2 ruddy eggs, all of which hatched 11 July.

An apparent case of a Lesser Scaup parasitizing a Ruddy Duck was encountered 27 June, when a nest of 6 ruddy eggs and 1 scaup egg was found. The nest was on firm ground at the very edge of the above-mentioned impoundment. All of the Ruddy Duck eggs subsequently hatched, but the single scaup egg did not.—LLOYD B. KEITH, *Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*.

Night Migration at 4,200 Meters in Venezuela.—In the Andes, near the city of Mérida, there is a perpetually snow-capped peak, the Pico Bolívar, 5,005 meters elevation, the highest in Venezuela. An overhead cable railway, recently built, reaches the base of the peak at an altitude of 4,700 meters. At 4,200 meters (over 13,000 feet) elevation, there is a station, which is lighted at night. On the morning